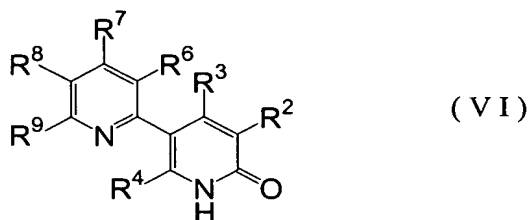


IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates to [1] a production method of a 5-(2'-pyridyl)-2-pyridone derivative represented by the formula (VI)



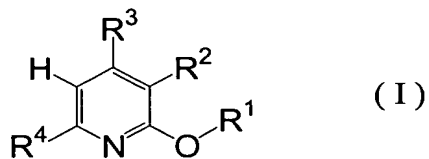
wherein R², R³ and R⁴

are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an ~~alkoxyl~~ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s), or R² and R³ optionally form, together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, a ring optionally having substituent(s), and R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹

are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), or R⁶ and R⁷, R⁷ and R⁸, or R⁸ and R⁹ optionally form, together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, a ring optionally having substituent(s)

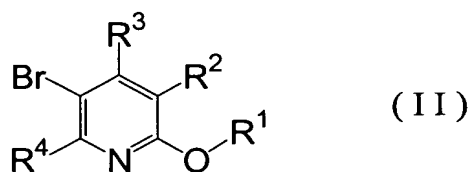
[hereinafter to be abbreviated as 5-(2'-pyridyl)-2-pyridone derivative (VI)],

which comprises reacting a pyridine derivative represented by the formula (I)

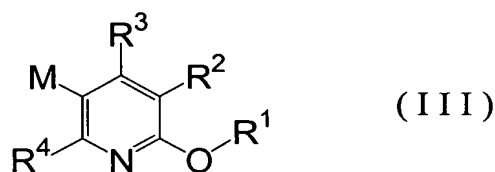


wherein R¹ is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), and R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined above [hereinafter to be

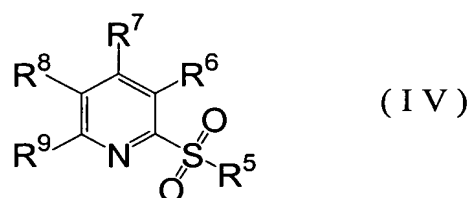
abbreviated as pyridine derivative (I)] with a brominating agent to give a 5-bromopyridine derivative represented by the formula (II)



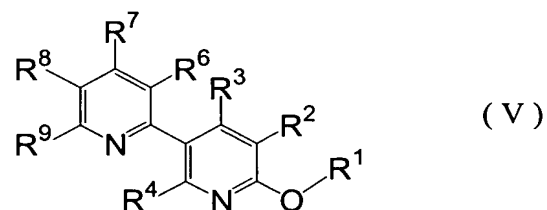
wherein R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as 5-bromopyridine derivative (II)], reacting the obtained 5-bromopyridine derivative (II) with a metallizing agent to give an organometallic compound represented by the formula (III)



wherein M is a metal atom belonging to group 1 or 2 of the periodic table, MgCl, or MgBr and R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as organometallic compound (III)], reacting the obtained organometallic compound (III) with a 2-sulfonylpyridine derivative represented by the formula (IV)



wherein R⁵ is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), and R⁶, R⁷, R⁸ and R⁹ are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as 2-sulfonylpyridine derivative (IV)], to give a 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine derivative represented by the formula (V)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are as defined above [hereinafter to be abbreviated as 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine derivative (V)], and hydrolyzing the obtained 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine derivative (V),

[2] the production method of the above-mentioned [1], wherein the organometallic compound is a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom or a magnesium atom, and

[3] the production method of the above-mentioned [1] or [2], wherein, in the formula (VI), R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 are each a hydrogen atom.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a preferable embodiment of the present invention, a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is ~~a lithium atom or a metal atom belonging to group 1~~, a magnesium atom, MgBr, or MgCl is used as an organometallic compound (III).

Please insert the following two paragraphs at page 4, line 13 of the specification:

In a more preferable embodiment of the present invention, a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom, a sodium atom, a magnesium atom, MgBr, or MgCl is used as an organometallic compound (III).

In a most preferable embodiment of the present invention, a compound of the formula (III) wherein M is a lithium atom, a magnesium atom, or MgBr is used as an organometallic compound (III).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the above-mentioned formulas, the alkyl group represented by each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 and R^9 and the alkyl group possessed by the ~~alkoxyl~~ alkoxy group represented by each of R^2 , R^3 and R^4 may be linear, branched or cyclic, and preferably has 1 to 12 carbon atoms. As the alkyl group, for example, methyl group, ethyl group, propyl group, isopropyl group, butyl group, isobutyl group, tert-butyl group, hexyl group, octyl group, dodecyl group, cyclopentyl group, cyclohexyl group and the like can be mentioned. The ring optionally formed by R^2 and R^3 , R^6 and R^7 , R^7 and R^8 , or R^8 and R^9 , together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, is not particularly limited, and, for example, an aliphatic hydrocarbon ring and the like can be mentioned. The ring preferably has 4 to 10 carbon atoms. As the ring, for example, cyclopentane ring, cyclohexane ring, cycloheptane ring, cyclodecan ring and the like can be mentioned.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The above-mentioned alkyl group and ring optionally have substituent(s). As the substituent, for example, aryl group having 4 to 15 carbon atoms such as phenyl group, tolyl group, methoxyphenyl group, chlorophenyl group, bromophenyl group, nitrophenyl group, naphthyl group, anthracenyl group, pyridyl group, furyl group, thienyl group and the like, which optionally has a hetero atom such as nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, sulfur atom and the like in a ring structure, and preferably comprises 5 to 14 ring members; an alkenyl group having 2 or 3 carbon atoms such as vinyl group, 1-methylvinyl group and the like; a halogen atom such as fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, iodine atom and the like; a linear, branched or cyclic ~~alkoxyl~~ alkoxy group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, such as methoxy

group, ethoxy group, propoxy group, isopropoxy group, butoxy group, isobutoxy group, tert-butoxy group, hexyloxy group, octyloxy group, dodecyloxy group, cyclopentyloxy group, cyclohexyloxy group, allyloxy group, benzyloxy group and the like; an aryloxy group having 4 to 15 carbon atoms such as phenoxy group, chlorophenoxy group, bromophenoxy group, nitrophenoxy group, naphthyloxy group, anthracenyloxy group, pyridyloxy group, furyloxy group, thienyloxy group and the like, which optionally has a hetero atom such as nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, sulfur atom and the like in a ring structure, and preferably comprises 5 to 14 ring members, and the like can be mentioned.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As representative examples of ~~alkoxyl~~ alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) for R^2 , R^3 or R^4 , methoxy group, ethoxy group, propoxy group, isopropoxy group, butoxy group, isobutoxy group, tert-butoxy group, hexyloxy group, octyloxy group, cyclopentyloxy group, cyclohexyloxy group, allyloxy group, benzyloxy group and the like can be mentioned.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The above-mentioned aryl group optionally has substituent(s). As the substituent, for example, a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, such as methyl group, ethyl group, propyl group, isopropyl group, butyl group, isobutyl group, tert-butyl group, hexyl group, octyl group, dodecyl group, cyclopentyl group, cyclohexyl group and the like; an aryl group having 4 to 15 carbon atoms such as phenyl group, tolyl group, methoxyphenyl group, chlorophenyl group, bromophenyl group, nitrophenyl group, naphthyl group, anthracenyl group, pyridyl group, furyl group, thienyl group and the like, which

optionally has a hetero atom such as nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, sulfur atom and the like in a ring structure, and preferably comprises 5 to 14 ring members; a halogen atom such as fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, iodine atom and the like; a linear, branched or cyclic ~~alkoxy~~ alkoxy group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, such as methoxy group, ethoxy group, propoxy group, isopropoxy group, butoxy group, isobutoxy group, tert-butoxy group, hexyloxy group, octyloxy group, dodecyloxy group, cyclopentyloxy group, cyclohexyloxy group, allyloxy group, benzyloxy group and the like; an aryloxy group having 4 to 15 carbon atoms such as phenoxy group, chlorophenoxy group, bromophenoxy group, nitrophenoxy group, naphthyloxy group, anthracenyloxy group, pyridyloxy group, furyloxy group, thienyloxy group and the like, which optionally has a hetero atom such as nitrogen atom, oxygen atom, sulfur atom and the like in a ring structure, and preferably comprises 5 to 14 ring members, and the like can be mentioned.